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Message Text

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10
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 XMB-02 /082 W
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O 180930Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1898

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, ETRD, QA
SUBJ: INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOYCOTT IN QATAR
FOR PURPOSES OF TAX REFORM ACT

REF: (A) STATE 250007, (B) 75 DOHA A-26, (C) DOHA A-25

1. REGRET THAT RESPONSE TO REF A INADVERTENTLY SENT AS AIRGRAM (REF C). TEXT OF AIRGRAM APPEARS BELOW. AIRGRAM AND ENCLOSURES SENT BY COURIER POUCH OCT 14, AND IT HAS BEEN OUR EXPERIENCE THAT IT CAN TAKE POUCH MATERIAL AT LEASTDYWO WEEKS TO REACH DEPT.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF AIRGRAM: "THE BASIC LAW CONCERNING THE ISRAELO BOYCOTT IN QATAR IS LAW 13 OF 1963. A COPY OF THE EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE LAW, TO WHICH WE WILL REFER BELOW, WAS INCLUDED AS AN ATTACHMENT TO REF B. ATTACHED TO THE CURRENT AIRGRAM IS A COPY OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 1969 NOTICE ADDRESSED TO ALL TRADERS IN QATAR FROM THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE IN DOHA. ALSO INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE IS THE EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER OF APRIL 14, 1976 FROM THE BOYCOTT OFFICE ADDRESSED
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TO ALL BANKS OPERATING IN THE STATE OF QATAR.

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"OPERATION OF THE BOYCOTT UNDER THE LAW AND AD HOC REGULATIONS PROMULGATED BY THE BOYCOTT OFFICE IS STRICT. PRIOR TO OBTAINING LETTERS OF CREDIT, RECEIVING GOODS OR ENTERING INTO ANY CONTRACT, THE LOCAL PARTIES MUST CLEAR WITH THE BOYCOTT OFFICE ALL OTHER PARTIES OF THE TRANSACTION. CARD FILES ARE KEPT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR THIS PURPOSE. (THESE CARD FILES ARE ACCESSIBLE ONLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE--PREVAILING THEORY IS THAT HE FEARS THAT HE WOULD BE BYPASSED IF FILES WERE MORE READILY AVAILABLE.) ONLY AFTER CLEARANCE FROM THE BOYCOTT MFFICE IS COMPLETE CAN THE TRANYACTION BE CONSIDERED LEGAL. TO OUR KNOW-LEDGE THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT THE RULES ON THE PART OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN. RARE EXCEPTIONS HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO GOVERN-MENT AGENCIES IMPORTING GOODS DEEMED NECESSARY FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE STATE.

"ALTHOUGH THE BASIC LAW (LAW 13, 1963) STATES THAT THE BOYCOTT OFFICE IS PART OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE* RECENT REGULATIONS AND "REMINDERS" EMANATING FROM THE BOYCOTT OFFICE HAVE BEEN UNDER A HEADING INDICATING THAT THE OFFICE IS A SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMY. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANY NOTICE OR LAW REFLECTING THIS CHANGE.

"IN REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL:

"QUESTION 5(A): ARTICLE 5 OF LAW 13 OF 1963 DEFINES AS PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS "ALL COMPANIES, LOCAL AND FOREIGN, WHICH HAVE INTERESTS: BRANCHES OR GENERAL AGENCIES IN ISRAEL, OR THOSE WHOSE ACTIONS OR POLICIES ARE AGAINFT THE PRINCIPLES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ARAB BOYCOTT." UNDER THIS ARTICLE, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEHCENTRAL OFFICE DISCRIMINATES AGAINST ISRAELI COMPANIES OR COMPANIES WITH CONNECTIONS IN ISRAEL OR COMPANIES WITH EMPLOQEES OR DIRECTORS WHO ARE JEWS, QATAR DOES BY LAW. SIMILARLY, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE CENTRAL OFFICE EFFECTS RE-GULATIONS ON SECONDARY BOYCOTTS, THE GOVERNMENT BL QATAR ALSO DOES BY LAW. THE CARD FILES KEPT AT THE QATARI BOYCOTT OFFICE ARE SUPPLIED BY THE CENORAL OFFICE AND TO THE EXTENH THAT THE CENTRAL OFFICE PROSCRIBES COMPANIES ON THE BASIS OF THEIR DOING BUSINESS WITH COMPANIESHHAVING JEWS AS OWNERS OR MANAGERS, QATAR LIKEWISE PROSCRIBES THEM. THE LETTER TO BANKS OPERATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN QATAR (ENCLOSURE 2) DENIES THAT THE BOYCOTT IS DIRECTED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS ON THE BASIS OF RACE, CREED OR NATIONAL ORIGIN; HOWEVER, WHEN THE CENTRAL OFFICE MAKES A DETERMINATION PROSCRIBING A COMPANY ON THE BASIS OF ITS HAVING JEWS IN ITS EMPLOY OR ON THE BASIS OF ITS SHIPPING OR INSURING PRODUCTS ON NON-PARTICIPATING CARRIERS, THE QATAR BOYCOTT OFFICE FOLLOWS SUIT.

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"QUESTION 5(B): HHE BOYCOTT APPLIES TO ISRAEL AND IS IMPLEMENTED BY THE QATAR BOYCOTT OFFICE UNDER PROVISIONS OF LAW 13 OF 1963 AND RULINGS AND "REMINDERS" ISSUED BY THE BOYCOTT OFFICE. COMPANIES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO IMPORT FROM OR EXPORT TO ISRAEL (ARTICLES 6, 7 AND 9 OF LAW 13 OF 1963). HOWEVER, THE NOTICE OF NOV 19, 1969 TO TRADERS PN QATAR CONCERNING CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN (ENCLOSURE 1) IN PARAGRAPH 2 REMOVES THE CLAUSE CONCERNICG ORIGIN FROM THE REQUIRED CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN. THE BOYCOTT IS STRICTLY ENFORCED AND ALSO STRCCTLY ADHERED TO BY COMPANIES OPERATING IN QATAR. THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE MAINTAINS FILAS OF PROSCRIBED COMPANIES AS OUTLINED ABOVE, AND MUST CLEAR ALL TRANSACTIONS." END TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INFORMATION CONTROL, BOYCOTTS, TAX REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DOHA01076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760390-0357
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761042/aaaabkfg.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 250007, 75 DOHA A-26, 76 DOHA A-25
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOYCOTT IN QATAR FOR PURPOSES OF TAX REFORM ACT
TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, ETRD, QA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006